

NEWS FROM NORTH DAKOTA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

**Senator Kent
CONRAD**

**Senator Byron
DORGAN**

**Congressman Earl
POMEROY**

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FEMA Extends Disaster Date *Emergency Aid To Cover Spring Storm Damage*

Washington – U.S. Senators Kent Conrad and Byron Dorgan and Congressman Earl Pomeroy announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has changed the start date of the North Dakota Presidential disaster declared by the President on June 27. The change means damages that occurred between April 5 and June 12 are now eligible for assistance under the Presidential declaration.

The new date allows several North Dakota counties that suffered severe storm damage in early spring the ability to ask for FEMA assistance to pay for the costs of recovery. With the continuing ground saturation and standing water, high winds were especially destructive to some areas with gusts reaching 70 miles per hour.

The combination of water and wind eroded road beds, washed gravel from road surfaces and caused an estimated \$2 million in damages. Without this change in date, those damages would not be eligible for federal assistance. Counties in North Dakota that suffered the most from the spring windstorms include: Benson, Bottineau, Kidder, McHenry, McLean, Pierce, Ramsey and Sheridan.

“We’re glad that FEMA has recognized that this disaster really began in April for many communities in our state,” the delegation said in a joint statement. “This action will make available much-needed assistance to cover the expensive process of recovery. Whether it’s debris removal or rebuilding a road, we now know that there are federal resources to help.”

With a presidential declaration, the state is eligible for emergency assistance from the FEMA and other federal agencies. The President signed the disaster declaration on June 27 after portions of eastern and northeastern North Dakota were hit with a series of fierce thunderstorms starting June 12.

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